



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,189	06/13/2001	Yoshitaka Terasaki	109768	4046

25944 7590 02/06/2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

SORRELL, ERON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2182

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2004

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/879,189

Applicant(s)

TERASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Eron J Sorrell

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 17 is objected to because of the following informalities: there appears to be a typographical error at line 6 of the claim. It is the position of the Examiner that line 6 of claim 17 should read "a data converter that converts... ." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1,4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kumpf (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,098).

4. Referring to claim 1, Kumpf teaches an image input and output control apparatus comprising:

Art Unit: 2182

a first transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives data to and from an image input and output apparatus that performs image input and output (see lines 9-24 of column 2 and item labeled 20 in figure 2);

a second transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives at least two of print data, scan data, and fax data to and from an information terminal apparatus that stores data to be handled by the image input and output apparatus in performing input or output (see lines 11-14 of column 1, lines 9-24 of column 2, and item labeled 18 in figure 2); and

a control section that causes data received by one of the first transmitting and receiving section and the second transmitting and receiving section to be transmitted from the other (see lines 9-24 of column 2 and item labeled 24 in figure 2).

5. Referring to claim 4, Kumpf teaches an image input and output system comprising:

an image input and output apparatus that performs image input and output (see lines 36-41 of column 2 and figure 3);

an information terminal apparatus that stores data to be handled by the image input and output apparatus in performing

Art Unit: 2182

image input or output (see lines 36-41 of column 2 and figure 3); and

the image input and output control apparatus of claim 1 that transmits and receives data to and from each of the image input and output apparatus and the information terminal apparatus (see lines 36-41 of column 2 and figure 3).

6. Referring to claim 6, Kumpf teaches the control section causes, in causing the data received by one of the first transmitting and receiving section and the second transmitting and receiving section to be transmitted from the other, the data to be converted into a data format suitable for transmission destination apparatus.

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 7-10,12,13,17-21,23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Levine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,973 hereinafter "Levine").

9. Referring to claim 7, Levine teaches an image input and output control apparatus that receives printing data from an information terminal apparatus and transmits the printing data to an image input and output apparatus that prints out the printing data comprising:

a Web server that provides the information terminal apparatus with a user interface for setting a printing condition and instruction execution of printing through a Web browser (see paragraph bridging columns 9 and 10);

a controller that controls transmission of the received printing data including the printing condition set by the information terminal apparatus to the image input and output apparatus (see lines 1-12 of column 11).

10. Referring to claim 8, Levine teaches the control apparatus further comprises a memory that stores the received printing data (see lines 10-26 of column 13 and item labeled 204 in figure 5).

11. Referring to claim 9, Levine teaches the control apparatus further comprises:

Art Unit: 2182

a receiver that receives the printing data from the information terminal apparatus (see item labeled 201 in figure 5); and

a transmitter that transmits the printing data to the image input and output apparatus (see item labeled 208 in figure 5).

12. Referring to claim 10, Levine teaches the receiver and transmitter are isolated from each other physically (see items labeled 201 and 208 in figure 5).

13. Referring to claims 12 and 13, Levine teaches the receiver receives the printing data over a network from the information terminal apparatus and that the transmitter transmits the printing data over a network to the image input and output apparatus (see lines 40-54 of column 8).

14. Referring to claim 17, Levine teaches an image input and output control apparatus that receives first-format data from an information terminal apparatus and transmits second-format data to an image input and output apparatus that prints out the second-format data, comprising:

a Web server that provides the information terminal apparatus with a user interface for setting a printing condition

Art Unit: 2182

and instruction execution of printing through a Web browser (see paragraph bridging columns 9 and 10);

a data converter that converts the received first-format data including the printing condition set by the information terminal apparatus into the second-format data which can be handled by the image input and output apparatus (see lines 40-55 of column 7);

a controller that controls transmission of the second-format data to the image input and output apparatus (see lines 1-12 of column 11).

15. Referring to claim 18, Levine teaches the image input and output controller further comprises a memory that stores the received first-format data (see lines 41-65 of column 9).

16. Referring to claim 19, Levine teaches the image input and output control apparatus further comprises a memory to store the converted second-format data (see lines 41-65 of column 9; Note the ESS queue stores jobs until they are ready to be processed by the image input and output device).

17. Referring to claim 20, Levine teaches a receiver that receives the first format data from the information terminal

Art Unit: 2182

apparatus (see item labeled 102 in figure 4 and paragraph bridging columns 7 and 8; Note the information terminal apparatuses sends the data to the image input and output apparatus in a PDL format (lines 40-54 of column 7)); and

a transmitter that transmits the second-format data to the image input output apparatus (see item labeled 208 in figure 5 and lines 51-65 of column 10; Note the original PDL file, at the time of printing has been converted (see lines 40-54 of column 7)).

18. Referring to claim 21, Levine discloses that the receiver and transmitter are isolated from each other physically (see items 201 and 208 in figure 5).

19. Referring to claims 23 and 24, Levine discloses the receiver receives the first-format data over a network from the information terminal apparatus and the transmitter transmits the second-format data over a network to the image input and output apparatus (see lines 15-40 of column 5).

Art Unit: 2182

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

20. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

21. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumpf in view of Beach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,772 hereinafter "Beach").

22. Referring to claim 2, Kumpf fails to teach limitation of the second transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives data wirelessly to and from a mobile information terminal apparatus.

Beach teaches a system comprising a transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives data wirelessly to and from a mobile information terminal apparatus (see paragraph bridging columns 4 and 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Kumpf with the teachings of Beach such that the second

Art Unit: 2182

transmitting and receiving section transmits and receives data wirelessly to and from a mobile information terminal apparatus. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification to increase the flexibility of the system to allow information terminals to be moved around freely as the user desires and to reduce the amount of wires and/or cables needed in the system.

23. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumpf in view of Leiman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,796 hereinafter "Leiman").

24. Referring to claim 3, Kumpf fails to teach the image input and output control apparatus comprises a user interface providing section that provides a user interface relating to the image input and output apparatus, however Kumpf does disclose the image input and output control apparatus is a peripheral server (see item 10 in figure 1).

Leiman, in an analogous system, teaches a image input and output control apparatus comprising a user interface providing section that provides a user interface relating to the image input and output apparatus (see lines 23-26 of column 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Kumpf with the above teachings of Leiman. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification in order to provide a user with a listing of currently pending jobs as suggested by Leiman (see lines 27-41 of column 2).

25. Referring to claim 5, Kumpf fails to disclose the image input and output control apparatus further comprising a billing apparatus that charges, in accordance with image input or output processing of the mage input and output apparatus, a user who has performed image input or output using the information terminal apparatus.

Leiman, in an analogous system, teaches a image input and output control apparatus comprising a billing apparatus that charges, in accordance with image input or output processing of the mage input and output apparatus, a user who has performed image input or output using the information terminal apparatus (see lines 20-34 of column 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Kumpf with the above teachings of Leiman. One of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification in order to keep track of which users are performing which activities using the image input and output apparatus.

26. Claims 11,16,22, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine in view of Beach.

27. Referring to claim 11, Levine fails to teach limitation of the receiver receiving the data wirelessly to and from a mobile information terminal apparatus.

Beach teaches a system comprising a transmitting and receiving section that transmits and receives data wirelessly to and from a mobile information terminal apparatus (see paragraph bridging columns 4 and 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Levine with the teachings of Beach such that the second transmitting and receiving section transmits and receives data wirelessly to and from a mobile information terminal apparatus. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification to increase the flexibility of the system to allow information terminals to be moved around

Art Unit: 2182

freely as the user desires and to reduce the amount of wires and/or cables needed in the system.

28. Referring to claims 16 and 27, Levine fails to disclose the image input and output control apparatus further comprising a billing controller that calculates an amount of money to be charged based on a printing condition.

Leiman, in an analogous system, teaches an image input and output control apparatus comprising a billing controller that calculates an amount of money to be charged based on a printing condition (see lines 20-34 of column 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Levine with the above teachings of Leiman. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification in order to keep track of which users are performing which activities using the image input and output apparatus and the amount they should be billed for the activities.

29. Referring to claim 22, Levine fails to teach limitation of the receiver receiving the first-format data wirelessly to and from an information terminal apparatus.

Art Unit: 2182

Beach teaches a system wherein the receiver receiving the first-format data wirelessly to and from an information terminal apparatus (see paragraph bridging columns 4 and 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Levine with the above teachings of Beach. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification to increase the flexibility of the system to allow information terminals to be moved around freely as the user desires and to reduce the amount of wires and/or cables needed in the system.

30. Claims 14 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine in view of Kurachi (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436).

31. Referring to claims 14 and 25, Levine fails to teach the limitation of the controller deleting the stored first-format data according to a user instruction after the printing has completed.

Kurachi teaches, in an analogous system, a controller deleting the stored first-format data according to a user

Art Unit: 2182

instruction after the printing has completed (see paragraph bridging columns 8 and 9).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Levine with the above teachings of Kurachi. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification in order to make room in the print queues when jobs are no longer needed to make room for new jobs being submitted.

32. Claims 15 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine in view of Mori (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,765).

33. Referring to claims 15 and 26, Levine fails to teach the limitation of the controller deleting the stored second-format data after a lapse of a prescribed time after the printing has completed.

Mori teaches, in an analogous system, a controller deleting the stored second-format data after a lapse of a prescribed time after the printing has completed (see lines 52-61 of column 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system

of Levine with the above teachings of Mori. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order to in order to allow new jobs to be recorded as suggested by Mori (see lines 52-61 of column 7).

Response to Arguments

34. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J Sorrell whose telephone number is 703 305-7800. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM - 5:30PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on 703 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

Art Unit: 2182

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EJS
January 31, 2004



JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100